

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. - 9. (Canceled)

10. (New) An endoscopic treatment apparatus comprising:

an elongated sheath having a distal end portion and a through-hole which has an opening at the distal end portion;

an elongated actuating member having a central axis, a distal end portion, and at least one elastic deformable portion provided at the distal end portion thereof, the actuating member being inserted into the through-hole of the sheath and movable relative to the sheath;

a treatment section for performing a high-frequency treatment, connected to the elastic deformable portion of the actuating member, the treatment section being laterally extendable for forming a loop when the treatment section is extended from the opening of the sheath by movement of the actuating member, the loop having a distal end, a proximal end, a loop central axis connecting the distal and proximal ends thereof, and a loop plane including the loop central axis, the loop plane being substantially parallel with the central axis of the actuating member,

wherein the loop central axis of the loop is tilted against the central axis of the actuating member at a tilting angle, by elastic deformation of the elastic deformable portion due to a returning force, when the treatment section and distal end of the actuating member are extended from the opening of the sheath.

11. (New) The endoscopic treatment apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the loop is tilted while maintaining a relation of $D1 \geq D2$, where D1 is a length of the loop in a direction perpendicular to the center axis of the actuating member, and D2 is a length of the loop in a direction parallel to the center axis of the sheath.

12. (New) The endoscopic treatment apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the loop central axis is maintained in substantially parallel or aligned with the central axis of the actuating member where the elastic deformable portion is positioned in the through-hole of the sheath.

13. (New) The endoscopic treatment apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the distal end portion of the sheath is bent against the central axis thereof towards a tilting direction of the loop.

14. (New) The endoscopic treatment apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said at least one elastic deformable portion includes a plurality of elastic deformable portions provided along the central axis of the actuating member.

15. (New) The endoscopic treatment apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the tilting angle is substantially 90° .

16. (New) An endoscopic treatment apparatus comprising:

an elongated sheath which is to be inserted into a body cavity, and having an elongated direction, the sheath having a distal end portion and a through-hole which extends in the sheath along the elongated direction, the distal end portion having an opening communicating with the through-hole;

an elongated actuating member which is inserted into the sheath to be movable relative to the sheath in the longitudinal direction thereof, the actuating member having a central axis, a distal end portion, and at least one elastic deformable portion provided at the distal end portion thereof;

a treatment section connected to the elastic deformable portion of the actuating member, the treatment section being expandable for forming a loop which is laterally extended against the central axis of the actuating member by an elastic deformation of the elastic deformable portion,

when the treatment section is extended from the opening of the sheath by movement of the actuating member,

a loop central axis connecting a distal end and a proximal end of the loop being kept to be substantially parallel or aligned with central axis of the actuating member, when the treatment section is positioned in the through-hole of the sheath.

17. (New) The endoscopic treatment apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the loop central axis of the loop is tilted at 90° relative to the central axis of the actuating member, when the elastic deformable portion is extended from the opening of the sheath.

18. (New) An endoscopic treatment apparatus comprising:

an elongated sheath having a distal end portion and a through-hole which has an opening at the distal end portion;

an elongated actuating member having a central axis, a distal end portion, and at least one deformable portion provided at the distal end portion thereof, the actuating member being inserted into the through-hole of the sheath and movable along the central axis, relative to the sheath;

a treatment section for performing a high-frequency treatment, connected to the deformable portion of the actuating member, the treatment section forming a loop when the treatment section is extended from the opening of the sheath by movement of the actuating member, the loop having a distal end, a proximal end, and a loop central axis connecting the distal and proximal ends thereof,

wherein the loop central axis of the loop is naturally tilted against the central axis of the actuating member by the deformable portion, when the treatment section and distal end of the actuating member are extended from the opening of the sheath.

19. (New) An endoscopic treatment apparatus comprising:

an elongated sheath having a distal end portion and a through-hole which has an opening at the distal end portion;

an elongated actuating member having a central axis, a distal end portion, and at least one elastic deformable portion provided at the distal end portion thereof, the actuating member being inserted into the through-hole of the sheath and movable relative to the sheath along the central axis;

a treatment section for performing a high-frequency treatment, connected to the elastic deformable portion of the actuating member, the treatment section being expanded for forming a loop when the treatment section is extended from the opening of the sheath by movement of the actuating member, the loop having a distal end, a proximal end, and a loop central axis connecting the distal and proximal ends thereof,

wherein the loop is elastically deformed by returning force of the elastic deformable portion so that loop central axis of the loop is tilted against the central axis of the actuating member, when the treatment section and distal end of the actuating member are extended from the opening of the sheath.